

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/766,177

Applicant(s)

CHEN ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Russell Frejd

2128

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment received 22 December 2006, and the IDS received 26 December 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-31.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 12.26.06
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

Russell Frejd
RUSSELL FREJD
PRIMARY EXAMINER

In re Application of: Chen et al.

Allowance of Application # 10/766,177

1. The following communication is in response to applicant's amendment received 22-December-2006, and the IDS received on 26-December-2006. Claims 1-31 are pending in the application.

Reasons for Allowance

2. The following is an Examiner's Statement of Reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter.

2.1 The instant application is directed to a non-obvious improvement over the invention described in USP 5,984,511, issued to Vasey-Glandon et al., which discloses a knowledge driven composite design optimization process for designing composites which establishes a global, manufacturable laminate definition at the ply level, and automates the composite design optimization process and output of three-dimensional laminated composite designs which parametrically link laminates, plies and analysis routines.

2.2 The improvement of the present invention comprises, in various embodiments, a method of reducing internal ply edges in a composite laminate having two or more zones, wherein the zones have various numbers of plies having different properties. This is accomplished by generating a master zone that notionally includes, for plies having each different property, the maximum number of plies having a respective property required in any one zone; sequencing the master zone plies in accordance with predefined stacking design rules; arranging the plies of each zone based upon the stacking sequence in the master zone; and providing instructions configured to direct manufacture of the composite laminate based upon the ply arrangement in

In re Application of: **Chen et al.**

each zone. This patentable distinction is included in each of the independent claims, nos. 1, 11, 17 and 25.

2.3 The art of record, either individually or in combination, fails to teach, suggest, or render obvious the useful, concrete and tangible <method of reducing internal ply edges in a composite laminate having two or more zones> having the corresponding structure which is disclosed in the specification and equivalents thereof at least at page 4, line 20 through page 20, line 16, and Figures 1-11. In view of the foregoing, the claims of the present application are found to be patentable over the prior art.

Response Guidelines

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the Issue Fee. Such submissions should clearly be labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance".

3.1 Any response to the Examiner in regard to this allowance should be

directed to: Russell Frejd, telephone number (571) 272-3779, Monday-Friday from 0530 to 1400 ET, or the examiner's supervisor, Kamini Shah, telephone number (571) 272-2279. Inquires of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the TC2100 Group Receptionist (571) 272-2100.

mailed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

or faxed to: (571) 273-8300

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to the Customer Service Window, Randolph Building, 401 Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA, 22314.

Date: 20-February-2007



**RUSSELL FREJD
PRIMARY EXAMINER**